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| | UNITED STATES | DISTRICT COURT |
| 19 | | ICT OF CALIFORNIA |
| 20 | ANIBAL RODRIGUEZ, SAL | Case No.: 3:20-cv-04688-RS |
| 21 | CATALDO, JULIAN | Case No.: 3.20-CV-04000-RS |
| 22 | SANTIAGO, and SUSAN LYNN | PLAINTIFFS' OMNIBUS MOTIONS IN |
| 23 | HARVEY, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, | LIMINE |
| | • | The Honorable Richard Seeborg |
| 24 | Plaintiffs, vs. | Courtroom 3 – 17th Floor Pretrial Conference: July 30, 2025, 9:30 a.m. |
| 25 | | Trial Date: August 18, 2025 |
| 26 | GOOGLE LLC, Defendant. | |
| 27 | Detendant. | |
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| 1 | PL | EASE TAKE NOTICE that, on July 30, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as | |
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| 2 | may be heard, Plaintiffs will move the Court, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Evidence, for an | | |
| 3 | order excluding the following from any trial in this matter: | | |
| 4 5 | 1. | Evidence and argument concerning counsel's compensation, including the manner or amount of any such compensation; | |
| 6 | 2. | Argument that this litigation is lawyer driven; | |
| 7 | 3. | Evidence and argument concerning the size, profitability, or type of work done by counsel; | |
| 8 | 4. | Evidence and argument concerning former plaintiffs who voluntarily dismissed their claims; | |
| 10 11 | 5. | Evidence and argument concerning Plaintiffs' complaint and the procedural history of this case; | |
| 12 13 | 6. | Argument characterizing the purpose of the California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act ("CDAFA"), including but not limited to argument that it is an "anti-hacking" statute; | |
| 14 15 | 7. | Evidence that app developers consented to sharing data with Google, or alternatively argument that app developers' agreements with Google can establish consent or permission for purposes of Plaintiffs' claims; and | |
| 16 17 18 | 8. | Evidence that Plaintiffs continued using Google services and apps that use Google services after filing this lawsuit, or alternatively argument that such is relevant to the elements of harm, consent, and permission. | |
| 19 | Th | is Motion is based upon this Notice of Motion and Memorandum, the Declaration of | |
| 20 | Mark C. N | Mao, argument of counsel, other materials in the record, and such other matters as the | |
| 21 | Court may | consider. | |
| 22 | | ISSUE PRESENTED & RELIEF REQUESTED | |
| 23 | WI | nether Plaintiffs' request to exclude certain arguments and evidence from trial should be | |
| 24 | granted? | | |
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INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs respectfully move the Court for orders foreclosing Google from offering discrete types of irrelevant and prejudicial evidence and argument in the presence of the jury. Plaintiffs' motions *in limine* address evidence and argument relating to a few discrete topics: the lawyers and law firms in this case (MIL Nos. 1–3); changes in the parties and allegations, if any, since the outset of this litigation (MIL Nos. 4–5); and mischaracterizations of the law as articulated by the Court (MIL Nos. 6–8). Neither those broad categories nor the specific evidence and argument addressed in Plaintiffs' motions *in limine* are relevant to the jury's determination of whether Google's conduct violated the law as the Court explains it, and each risks inflaming the jury and confusing the issues. Plaintiffs therefore respectfully request that the Court grant Plaintiffs' motions *in limine* and exclude the described evidence and argument from trial.

LEGAL STANDARD

Evidence is admissible at trial only if it is relevant. Fed. R. Evid. 402. Evidence is relevant if "(a) it has any tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without the evidence; and (b) the fact is of consequence in determining the action." Fed. R. Evid. 401. Even relevant evidence, however, is inadmissible "if its probative value is substantially outweighed by a danger of ... unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting cumulative evidence." Fed. R. Evid. 403. "Unfair prejudice is an undue tendency to suggest decision on an improper basis, commonly, though not necessarily, an emotional one." *United States v. Haischer*, 780 F.3d 1277, 1281 (9th Cir. 2015).

ARGUMENT

I. MIL No. 1: Counsel's Compensation

The Court should exclude from trial evidence or arguments pertaining to counsel's compensation, including but not limited to the fact that it may be a percentage of the damages awarded. A defendant is not permitted to prejudice the jury against a plaintiff's case by raising or even alluding to contingency fees that are customary in class cases. Attorneys' fees are not probative of liability in this or any other case; nothing but prejudice could result from arguing or alluding to them. Rules 401, 402, and 403 prohibit discussing fees in the jury's presence.

The Ninth Circuit made this clear when it held that "[t]he award of attorneys' fees is a matter of law for the judge, not the jury ... The jury's role is to determine liability and the amount of damages. These determinations are distinct from the awarding of fees. By informing the jury of the plaintiff's right to seek attorneys' fees ... the court invited the jury to factor in a subsequent step—the court's calculation of the ultimate judgment—that had no relevance to the jury's determination of liability and damages." *Brooks v. Cook*, 938 F.2d 1048, 1051 (9th Cir. 1991).

Since the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Brooks*, many other courts have applied its holding to exclude the kind of argument and evidence at issue here. *See Shoraka v. Bank of Am., N.A.*, 2024 WL 3468756, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 18, 2024) ("[t]he Court finds the issue of attorneys' fees irrelevant under Fed. R. Evid. 401."); *Grace v. Apple, Inc.*, 2020 WL 227404, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2020) ("[t]he Court agrees with Plaintiffs that the introduction of evidence, argument, or testimony about the motivations of Plaintiffs' counsel would be irrelevant to the merits of the instant action and would therefore not be admissible."); *Ruzhinskaya v. HealthPort Techs., LLC*, 2016 WL 7388371, at *7 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 20, 2016) (excluding "insinuations or attacks directed at class-action lawyers" because "regardless of whether the inspiration for this lawsuit was [Plaintiff's] or an attorney's, [Plaintiff'] is entitled to have her claims ... resolved on the merits, not based on attitudes the jury may have—or counsel may intentionally stoke—as to class actions, or the business model, role, or ethics of class-action counsel"). Under black-letter law, Google should be precluded from introducing evidence or arguments regarding counsel's compensation.

II. MIL No. 2: Characterizing Litigation as Lawyer-Driven

Throughout this litigation, Google has inappropriately attacked this litigation as lawyer driven. *See*, *e.g.*, Dkt. 381 (Google's motion for summary judgment, suggesting this case was "manufactured around a creative, lawyerly, unreasonable reading of the (s)WAA description" and other disclosures). While the Court is adept at divorcing this posturing from the merits of a motion, juries may be more susceptible at trial, and therefore courts routinely exclude it.

Not only is a characterization that the litigation is "lawyer-driven" irrelevant, but it would be highly prejudicial, stands to create confusion, and should be excluded pursuant to Rule 403. Google cannot argue or insinuate views that are not based upon evidence and if Google were to

try to admit evidence to support such an argument this would open the door to Plaintiffs' counsel providing evidence about their law firms and lawyers, creating a complete sideshow and mini-trial within a trial resulting in unfair prejudice, "confus[ion of] the issues," and "undue delay." Fed. R. Evid. 403.

Indeed, this request is so reasonable that defendants regularly agree to it—including before this Court. *See Montera v. Premier Nutrition Corp.*, 2022 WL 1465044, at *1 (N.D. Cal. May 9, 2022) (Seeborg, C.J.) (following plaintiff's motion *in limine*, defendant stipulated "to not put on evidence or argument . . . that this case is lawyer-driven litigation"). After meeting and conferring, Google still refused to agree to this proposed limitation and insists instead on reserving Google's ability to make this argument to the jury. *See* Mao Decl. ¶ 3. Such argument is clearly inflammatory and seeks to distract the jury from the merits of this hard-fought litigation. A jury should decide the merits without *ad hominem* attacks on counsel or digressions about counsel's role in the litigation.

When this issue has been litigated, courts have concluded that the plaintiff's motivation for initiating litigation is irrelevant where, as here, it is not part of the claims or defenses. *See*, *e.g.*, *Stollings v. Ryobi Techs., Inc.*, 725 F.3d 753, 761 (7th Cir. 2013) (stating that "argument aimed at a party's counsel is improper and risks depriving the party of a fair trial" and remanding for new trial); *Palantir Tech., Inc. v. Abramowitz*, 689 F. Supp. 3d 981, 988 (N.D. Cal. 2022) (finding that "[m]otive to sue is irrelevant to any issue in this case"); *Corcoran v. CVS Pharmacy, Inc.*, 2021 WL 633809, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 18, 2021) (recognizing that "[c]lass actions are frequently driven by lawyers" and excluding any suggestion that the case is "an invention for litigation"); *Allstate Ins. Co. v. Nassiri*, 2013 WL 2394116, at *5 (D. Nev. May 30, 2013) (granting motion *in limine* about motivations of litigation); *Irving v. Dish Network LLC*, 2013 WL 12317058, at *3 (N.D. Ga. July 22, 2013) (holding that evidence not related to conduct or liability is unfairly prejudicial); *Tallman v. Freedman Anselmo Lindberg*, 2013 WL 2631754, at *3 (C.D. Ill. June 12, 2013) ("Plaintiff's motive in bringing the lawsuit is not relevant on the issue of whether Defendant violated [the law and] several district courts in other jurisdictions have so found") (citation modified).

There is no legitimate reason for Google to introduce this commentary at trial, and the Court should preclude Google at this stage from doing so under Rules 402 and 403.

III. MIL No. 3: Size, Profitability, and Work of Counsel

Similarly, information regarding the law firms in this case has no bearing on the merits of Plaintiffs' claims. Yet, after meeting and conferring on this issue, Google refused to stipulate to not presenting arguments about Class Counsel. See Mao Decl. ¶ 4. While Google's attempts to characterize Class Counsel to the jury may take a different form than the derogatory "lawyer-driven" messaging, any attempts to characterize Class Counsel are equally improper.

Whether the parties' law firms are large or small, profitable or not, litigate on behalf of plaintiffs or defendants, have other litigation against Google, etc. is not relevant to the merits of this case; they do not have any tendency to prove the merits of Plaintiffs' claims or Google's defenses under Rule 401. The court in *Escobar v. Airbus Helicopters SAS* addressed this issue, where the defendant filed a motion *in limine* to preclude counsel from commenting on the defense firm representing Airbus in a wrongful death case. 2016 WL 5897554, at *1 (D. Haw. Oct. 7, 2016). The *Escobar* court found that "[t]he size of the law firms representing Defendant, as well as their reputations, their hourly fees, or any similar statements are irrelevant to the case." *Id.* (citing Fed. R. Evid. 401); *see also Kinsel v. BMW of N. Am. LLC*, 2023 WL 11899597, at *10–11 (D. Ariz. June 21, 2023) (excluding references to law firm's "representation of BMW NA or other manufacturers" in other matters); *Whittier v. Seattle Tunnel Partners*, 2022 WL 1624694, at *1 (W.D. Wash. May 23, 2022) (granting motion to exclude evidence of "other cases filed by plaintiff's counsel, and counsel's win-loss record, other verdict and damage awards, and opinions regarding the merits of plaintiff's claims"). The same is true here. The size, profitability, and work of Class Counsel are not relevant.

The danger of unfair prejudice from focusing attention on the lawyers is also substantial. This balancing test was applied in *Hart v. RCI Hosp. Holdings, Inc.*, 90 F. Supp. 3d 250, 273 (S.D.N.Y. 2015). There, the trial court opined that "[t]he jury's attitudes about class actions generally, or employment class actions specifically, or the business model, role, or ethics of classaction counsel, have no bearing on" the issues being litigated at trial and "commentary on this

DataTreasury Corp. v. Wells Fargo & Co., 2010 WL 11538713, at *23 (E.D. Tex. Feb. 26, 2010) (excluding "direct or indirect comment on the law firm or lawyers representing any party, including, without limitation, references to the size of the law firm ... other matters handled by the law firm, or other clients or types of clients represented by the law firm or lawyers representing any party"). The Court should reach the same conclusion here. This evidence is inadmissible under Rules 402 and 403.

IV. MIL No. 4: Plaintiffs Who Voluntarily Dismissed Their Claims

Google should not be permitted to offer evidence and argument pertaining to former plaintiffs who voluntarily dismissed their claims, and who are therefore not class representatives at this trial. Five plaintiffs dismissed their claims without prejudice without being deposed. Four dismissed their claims before Google even filed its answer. See Dkts. 221, 222, 228, and 229. The fifth dismissed his claims by stipulation with Google. Dkt. 249. Additionally, one plaintiff who was deposed (Mr. Cataldo) has also agreed to dismiss his claims and his notice of dismissal is forthcoming. See Mao Decl. ¶ 5. Class counsel informed Google of his intent prior to this filing. Id. Their early involvement in this case and subsequent decisions to dismiss their claims is not probative of whether Google violated the law. Any evidence or argument regarding their involvement in this case not only invites irrelevant speculation but also carries a severe risk of confusing the issues and misleading the jury; and statements made by dismissed plaintiffs are inadmissible hearsay. For those reasons, it is "common practice" to "shield such matters from the jury." Bryce v. Trace, Inc., 2008 WL 906142, at *3 (W.D. Okla. Mar. 31, 2008); see also, e.g., Shepard v. Quillen, 2013 WL 978201, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 12, 2013) (excluding "testi[mony] regarding dismissed parties or dismissed claims").

The five dismissed plaintiffs' involvement in this case is not relevant to whether Google violated the law. *See*, *e.g.*, *Brown v. Kavanaugh*, 2013 WL 1819796, at *2 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2013) ("[m]atters pled and dismissed in this case are not relevant to Plaintiff's remaining claims."); *Leaf v. Cottey*, 2005 WL 8167491, at *3 (S.D. Ind. Sept. 22, 2005) ("[e]vidence relating to any of the dismissed parties or to the fact of their dismissal is irrelevant."); *Tinius v. Carroll Cnty. Sheriff*

Dept., 2004 WL 3103962, at *2 (N.D. Iowa Dec. 22, 2004) ("[t]he court concludes that such evidence [concerning dismissed parties] is irrelevant to the issues involved in this case"). The reasons for a party's voluntary dismissal are privileged, and the possible explanations are many, so their withdrawal from the litigation has no probative value. See Bolton v. Tesoro Petroleum Corp., 871 F.2d 1266, 1277 (5th Cir. 1989) ("[v]oluntary dismissal of a suit can occur for a variety of reasons. The relevance of the [dismissed claims] was, thus, marginal."). During meet and confers on this topic, Google's counsel could not explain the relevance of any evidence concerning any of these former plaintiffs. Nor has Google's counsel explained why testimony and evidence from the Plaintiffs who will testify at trial are insufficient for whatever purpose Google might have in mind, such that the dismissed plaintiffs' evidence would not be cumulative.

Even if statements made by the former plaintiffs had some relevance, they would remain inadmissible hearsay. They are not admissible as party admissions because these individuals are no longer parties, and all but one dismissed their claims long before the Court could evaluate whether they adequately represented the classes. *United States v. Eubanks*, 591 F.2d 513, 519 (9th Cir. 1979) ("[a]dmissions by individual defendants could not be considered as evidence against the other defendants."); *Cambridge Elecs. Corp. v. MGA Elecs., Inc.*, 227 F.R.D. 313, 335 (C.D. Cal. 2004) ("a party's statement is admissible as non-hearsay only if it is offered against *that* party" (quotations omitted)); *cf. Pierce v. Cnty. of Orange*, 526 F.3d 1190, 1202 (9th Cir. 2008) ("[f]or an absent member of a ... class to be treated as a party—and, hence, as a party representative of the class as a whole—for Rule 801 purposes there must be some mechanism to ensure that he or she will represent the interests of the class." (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4))).

Regardless, any relevance of evidence regarding the dismissed plaintiffs would be substantially outweighed by its obvious prejudicial effect. Courts around the country exclude similar evidence on this basis. *See*, *e.g.*, *M.H. v. Cnty. of Alameda*, 2015 WL 894758, at *14–15 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 2, 2015) (excluding references to former plaintiff in the presence of the jury); *Dial Corp. v. News Corp.*, 2016 WL 690868, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 17, 2016) ("Courts in this Circuit have repeatedly issued in limine orders precluding" "reference to claims that Plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed"); *Graham v. Bennett*, 2007 WL 781763, at *3 (C.D. Ill. Mar. 12, 2007) (excluding

evidence regarding dismissed parties). Evidence and argument about plaintiffs that are no longer in the case would impermissibly lead the jury to speculate about why these former plaintiffs are not at trial. Leaving their absence unexplained would prejudice Plaintiffs by creating the misimpression that they simply did not care enough to show up. And explaining that they voluntarily dismissed their claims would prejudice Plaintiffs by improperly suggesting that they had lost faith in their claims. To dispel these inferences—or any others that Google may draw from the former plaintiffs' involvement, discovery responses, and dismissals—the former plaintiffs may have to appear at trial and testify. That would further confuse the jury and spur wasteful "mini trials" on issues that are of no importance to the merits of the case. *See Ledford v. Lamartz*, 462 F. Supp. 3d 905, 909–10 (N.D. Ind. 2020) (excluding evidence of dismissed claims because of "delay[] and inefficiency").

Pursuant to Rules 402, 403, and 802, the Court should exclude any exhibits or documents related to the former plaintiffs—including, at minimum, exhibits G114–16, G118–19, G123–25, G127–28, G132–35, G137, G153–54—and all other testimony, evidence, argument, or reference to former plaintiffs, their involvement in this litigation, or their dismissal. *See* Mao Decl. ¶ 6

V. MIL No. 5: Plaintiffs' Complaint & Procedural History

This trial will focus on the claims and defenses allowed by the Court, and Google should not be allowed to present evidence or argument tied to Plaintiffs' prior complaints or the motion to dismiss rulings, where the Court narrowed the set of claims and issues to be tried.

Courts routinely exclude evidence about the case's procedural history because it has little if any probative value at trial. *See*, *e.g.*, *Boyer v. City of Simi Valley*, 2024 WL 993316, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 13, 2024) (excluding procedural history evidence because it "is not relevant to the claim at issue"); *Phoenix Techs. Ltd. v. VMWare, Inc.*, 2017 WL 2001981, at *5 (N.D. Cal. May 11, 2017) (excluding complaint because its "relevance [was] low"); *Bryant v. OptumRX Pharmacy, Inc.*, 2017 WL 5714721, at *4 (C.D. Cal. May 10, 2017) (excluding evidence of procedural history because "[n]othing about [it] is relevant to Plaintiff's claims"); *Oyarzo v. Tuolumne Fire Dist.*, 2013 WL 5718882, at *9 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2013) (excluding evidence about claims that discovery did not support because it was "irrelevant"). The legal elements of the causes of action, not the

allegations of the complaint, are the yardstick against which the evidence at trial must be measured. The Plaintiffs' allegations at earlier stages of the case are irrelevant and inadmissible under Rule 402.

Even if Plaintiffs' earlier allegations had any probative value, it would be dwarfed by the dangers that Rule 403 guards against. See Spin Master, Ltd. v. Zobmondo Ent., LLC, 2012 WL 8134014, at *5 (C.D. Cal. July 6, 2012) (evidence about dismissed claim was properly excluded because "any probative value ... was substantially outweighed by unfair prejudice, confusion, and waste of time under Rule 403"). This evidence would confuse the issues and mislead the jury because it would wrongly suggest that plaintiffs must prove their earlier allegations, not just their legal claims. It would waste time because "the procedural history ... would have to be explained" and debated. Id.; Curry v. Revolution Labs., LLC, 2023 WL 5509337, at *15 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 25, 2023) (excluding such evidence because "[i]t would have caused a significant diversion from the issues of the case"). And it would be prejudicial because the mere suggestion that Plaintiffs failed to prove other allegations may cause jurors to doubt whether Plaintiffs can establish the allegations presented at trial, regardless of what the evidence shows. See, e.g., Oyarzo, 2013 WL 5718882, at *9 ("the admission of such evidence is highly prejudicial"); Stegall v. Berryhill, 2018 WL 2332460, at *4 (N.D. Ill. May 23, 2018) (granting motion in limine because of "risk that any efforts by Defendant to call attention to those withdrawn legal theories at trial could prejudice Plaintiff").

The Court should therefore exclude the complaints, motions and other docket entries, and all testimony and argument about what Plaintiffs alleged before trial.

VI. MIL No. 6: Characterizations of the CDAFA, Including as an "Anti-Hacking Statute"

The Court should preclude Google from characterizing the CDAFA at trial as an "anti-hacking" statute or otherwise presenting argument or evidence regarding the legislative history, Google's view of the purpose of the statute, or any other characterization of what the statute was meant to do or not do. The purpose and intent of a statute is a question of law that is for the Court to decide, and the Court has already rejected Google's mischaracterizations of the CDAFA.

Time and again, Google has distorted the CDAFA with misleading shorthand. In its opposition to class certification, in the summary judgment hearing, and elsewhere, Google has

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characterized the CDAFA as an "anti-hacking statute." Dkt. 329 (Class Cert. Opp.) at 1; Dkt. 419 (Jul. 29, 2024 Hrg. Tr.) at 28:5. That description is not only false; it is also irrelevant to the jury's task, which is to apply the law as the Court instructs. If Google were to repeat this tactic at trial, it would mislead the jury, confuse the issues, and prejudice Plaintiffs by inviting the jury to render a verdict on an inaccurate basis. The Court will instruct the jury regarding the CDAFA. Argument and evidence by Google seeking to characterize the CDAFA and its purpose should be excluded under Rules 402 and 403 for at least two reasons.

First, the CDAFA is not just an "anti-hacking" statute. The statute does not even use the term "anti-hacking." See generally Cal. Penal Code § 502. And it prohibits much more than the kind of shadowy underground activity that the term "hacking" naturally calls to mind. See, e.g., Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(2) (making it unlawful to "[k]nowingly access[] and without permission take[] ... any data from a computer"). Here, the Court rejected Google's atextual assertion that conduct cannot not violate the CDAFA unless it "circumvents technical or code-based barriers in place to restrict or bar a user's access." Dkt. 109 at 14. This conclusion flows naturally from the text of the statute. Even if a defendant did not technologically hack or break into the plaintiff's computer, the defendant might not have had permission to take the plaintiff's data. *Id.*; *Greenley* v. Kochava, Inc., 684 F. Supp. 3d 1024, 1049 (S.D. Cal. 2023) ("the phrase 'without permission' is not limited to conduct that circumvents a device barrier or 'hacks' a computer system."); Esparza v. Kohl's, Inc., 723 F. Supp. 3d 934, 944–45 (S.D. Cal. 2024) (same); In re Carrier IQ, Inc., 78 F. Supp. 3d 1051, 1098–1101 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (rejecting notion that CDAFA prohibits only access that circumvents a technical or code-based barrier). If Google nonetheless characterizes the CDAFA as an anti-hacking statute, the jury may expect Plaintiffs to satisfy an element that does not exist. That would confuse the issues, mislead the jury, and severely prejudice Plaintiffs. See In re Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litig., 2016 WL 6246736, at *11 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2016) ("[w]hether there was unfair prejudice depends on whether there was an 'undue tendency to suggest decision on an improper basis"").

Second, a party's gloss on the purpose of the statute at issue is irrelevant to the trial. The jury's job is to apply the law as stated in the Court's instructions. See, e.g., United States v. Lynch,

903 F.3d 1061, 1079 (9th Cir. 2018) ("[i]t is clear that ... juror[s] [have a] sworn duty to follow the law as instructed by the court."). It is not their job to decide what the law should be to effectuate the purposes of the statute. Evidence and argument regarding the purpose of the CDAFA blurs the line between the role of the Court and the role of the jury. Accordingly, there is judicial consensus that "[s]o long as the jury was properly instructed on the applicable law, [there is] no reason why it would be either necessary or appropriate for the jury to hear an argument about [the legislature's] intent in enacting the law." *Stillman v. Norfolk & W. R. Co.*, 811 F.2d 834, 838 (4th Cir. 1987); see also Brewer v. BNSF Ry. Co., 2016 WL 11709319, at *2 (D. Mont. Apr. 22, 2016) (same); *Almendarez v. BNSF Ry.*, 2014 WL 1338090, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Apr. 2, 2014) (same); *Ragan v. Norfolk S. Ry. Co.*, 2023 WL 104734, at *5 (E.D. Tenn. Jan. 4, 2023) (same); *Berry v. Wis. Cen. Ltd.*, 2022 WL 3576203, at *3 (W.D. Wis. Aug. 19, 2022) (same); *Munns v. CSX Transp., Inc.*, 2009 WL 805133, at *5 (N.D. Ohio Mar. 27, 2009) (same).

VII. MIL No. 7: Permission Based On Google's Agreements with App Developers

The Court should exclude any argument or evidence that Google secured the requisite permission or consent based on agreements Google entered into with third-party app developers which did not disclose Google's data collection practices regarding the (s)WAA toggle or other relevant Google settings. These agreements between Google and third parties do not even mention WAA and sWAA, making them entirely irrelevant. And Google has neither produced nor identified any third-party terms or privacy policies that discuss how WAA and sWAA do not affect Google's data collection.

At summary judgment, Google argued "the most correct lens to view this claim through is one that focuses on Google's *permission vis-à-vis the app developers, not the end users.*" Dkt. 381 at 25 (emphasis added). According to Google, Plaintiffs lose the case even if they did not consent because Google separately obtained consent from the app developers. *See id.* ("Google never exceeded the scope of its permission to use the data gathered by app developers and sent to Google via GA for Firebase.").

Google's argument (and any related evidence) should be excluded as contrary to Ninth Circuit law, which "makes clear that 'authorization' is something that only the owner of the

computer or similar authority can provide." *United States v. Thompson*, 2022 WL 834026, at *3 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 21, 2022). Where "authorization to access a computer has been affirmatively revoked"—e.g., by turning "off" (s)WAA—Google "cannot sidestep the statute by going through the back door and accessing the computer through a third party." *United States v. Nosal*, 844 F.3d 1024, 1028 (9th Cir. 2016). Here, Google seeks to do precisely what *Nosal* proscribes—using "a third party"—i.e., app developers—to "sidestep" Google's obligation to secure permission from users.

At summary judgment, this Court rejected Google's argument as "in tension with relevant Ninth Circuit precedent." Dkt. 445 at 16 (citing Nosal, 844 F.3d at 1028). This Court also observed that "no court has endorsed the position that when one technology company acts as a vendor for another, consent for the purposes of CDAFA analysis is coextensive with the party that obtained it." Id. ("Google presents no relevant authority to show that under CDAFA, permission given by third parties to use (s)WAA-off data satisfies the statute's permission requirement"). Accordingly, "whether a third party granted permission is irrelevant. Instead, what matters is whether Google knew or should have known that Plaintiffs revoked permission to use their data." Id. (emphasis added).

Thus, evidence and argument based on these third-party agreements should also not be allowed as it will introduce jury confusion and create a mini-trial on issues that this Court has already ruled are irrelevant under Ninth Circuit law. Further, Google has never produced or identified any documents in the course of discovery, showing that developers knew that WAA and sWAA-controls do not work. Indeed, Google has been unable to point to any third-party terms or privacy policies that disclose that Google continues collecting Plaintiffs' browsing data even when WAA and sWAA are set to off.

In addition to precluding attorney argument on this issue, the Court should also preclude Google from introducing exhibits that it will use to support the argument.

VIII. MIL No. 8: Plaintiffs' Continued Use of Apps Containing Google SDKs

This Court should preclude evidence and argument concerning any ongoing use by Plaintiffs of apps that contain the at-issue Google SDKs. Google apparently plans to tell the jury

that Plaintiffs should lose the case because the class representatives still use these apps even after uncovering "the truth" about Google's misconduct and filing this lawsuit. See, e.g., Dkt. 329 at 17 (Google arguing that "each one of the named Plaintiffs fatally undermined the claim" by "testif[ying] they had not changed their behavior [on their] phones after learning 'the truth' about sWAA," and arguing that Google has "strong defenses at trial on this basis").

Such argument and testimony should be excluded for at least three reasons.

First, Plaintiffs' ongoing use of apps is irrelevant. In granting class certification, this Court correctly held that "Plaintiffs' continued use of Google's products and services does not equate to consent." Dkt. 352 at 13. "[T]he relevant 'conduct' showing a lack of consent is the users' decisions affirmatively to switch off the WAA and sWAA buttons." Id. at 9. "It is not, as Google tries to argue, the fact that users continued using apps with Google's SDKs," including because it is "unreasonable for Google to expect, as it does, that users must also stop using the many apps on their phone, after selecting sWAA to be off, to show a lack of consent." Id.

Second, any theoretical relevance is extinguished by the simple fact that it is impossible to avoid the at-issue Google SDKs. As Plaintiffs' technical expert will testify, Firebase is installed in at least 97% of the top one thousand apps on Android and 54% of the top one thousand apps on iOS—to say nothing of the GMA SDK, a separate tracking tool at issue in this case. Dkt. 314-5 at ¶¶355–56. If a user accesses just five non-Google apps, the probability of their data being collected by Google is at least 97%. Id. In this Court's own words, "the ubiquitous nature of phones, coupled with the sheer number of apps with Google SDKs would render Plaintiffs' use of their phones impossible." Dkt. 352 at 13. Short of ditching their phones altogether, Plaintiffs cannot avoid interacting with apps that contain Google SDKs, and "the growing reliance on phones increasingly make them necessities, not luxuries." Id. Given these circumstances, Plaintiffs' ongoing use of apps that contain the at-issue Google SDKs is irrelevant to Google's consent and harm arguments because Plaintiffs have no choice but to continue using their phones and exposing themselves to Google's illegal data-collection practices.

Third, Google's argument puts "Plaintiffs in a Catch-22 that would essentially preclude injunctive relief altogether." *In re Yahoo Mail*, 308 F.R.D. 577, 589 (N.D. Cal. 2015). *Yahoo Mail*

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Gase 3:20-cv-04688-RS is on point. In a case about Yahoo's interception of email messages sent by non-Yahoo subscribers to Yahoo subscribers, Yahoo "challenge[d] Plaintiffs' standing to seek injunctive or declaratory relief under Rule 23(b)(2)." Id. at 587. Yahoo claimed that "Plaintiffs have continued to send emails to Yahoo subscribers even after Plaintiffs learned that Yahoo allegedly scans, stores, and uses those emails," and argued that plaintiffs' "knowledge of Yahoo's practices 'precludes [them] from showing a likelihood of being injured in the future by those practices." *Id.* The court squarely rejected this argument, reasoning it "would have the functional effect of eliminating injunctive relief altogether": Yahoo would require Plaintiffs to allege both (1) that Plaintiffs, in order to avoid "consenting" to Yahoo's conduct, stopped emailing 10 Yahoo subscribers after discovering Yahoo's alleged wrongful conduct, and (2) that Plaintiffs continued to email Yahoo subscribers 11 so that Plaintiffs allege a real and immediate threat of future injury, i.e., that Yahoo would intercept Plaintiffs' communications in the 12 future. 13 14 15 16

Id. at 589. The court "decline[d] to impose [that] impossible burden on Plaintiffs." Id.

The same principle carried the day in Weidenhamer v. Expedia, Inc., a false advertising class action relating to a website's pop-up message. 2015 WL 1292978 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 23, 2015). The defendant argued that "[plaintiff] now knows about the deceptive pop-up window, so there is no plausible allegation that he will be fooled if he encounters it in the future," thereby depriving him of standing to pursue injunctive relief. *Id.* at *5. As in *Yahoo*, the court rejected defendant's "Catch-22 defense, which would make federal courts powerless to enjoin [unlawful conduct]." Id. "The notion that only a clueless consumer can establish Article III standing to redress [unlawful conduct] is unsupportable." Id.; see also Ries v. Ariz. Beverages USA LLC, 287 F.R.D. 523, 533 (N.D. Cal. 2012) ("the fact that [plaintiffs] discovered the supposed deception some years ago does not render the advertising any more truthful").

This Court applied the same principles at class certification to reject Google's argument that Plaintiffs "undermined" their claims by admitting they continue to use apps. Dkt. 352 at 12– 13. Relying on Yahoo Mail, 308 F.R.D. at 577, this Court also "declined to place such an impossible burden on Plaintiffs seeking injunctive relief," reasoning that if Plaintiffs stopped using the apps, "this would permit Google to argue that Plaintiffs lack standing to aver the instant

| 1 | claims." Id. at 13. While this Court saw through Google's argument at class certification, the jury | |
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| 2 | will not be familiar with the law, much less the law on standing, and they should not be led astray | |
| 3 | by undue reliance on a fact with significant implications for standing—a concept far beyond the | |
| 4 | jury's scope. At a minimum, any probative value of Plaintiffs' ongoing use of these apps is | |
| 5 | substantially outweighed by the dangers of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, and misleading | |
| 6 | the jury, where Plaintiffs would be penalized for behavior consistent with maintaining their | |
| 7 | standing. | |
| 8 | CONCLUSION | |
| 9 | For the foregoing reasons, the Court should exclude the inadmissible evidence and | |
| 10 | argument described in this Motion. | |
| 11 | Dated: June 24, 2025 Respectfully submitted, | |
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Filed 06/24/25

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